

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 0714Z 171518Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCE-00 ONY-00 SSO-00 NEAE-00 /011 W
-----021981 171526Z /40 R
O 171344Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5667

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 7142

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

FOR NEA/ARN DRAPER FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, SY, US, EAIR
SUBJ: LOCKHEED L-100S FOR SYRIA

REF: STATE 273762

1. GENERAL MUKKAYED IS STILL HEAD OF PROCUREMENT FOR SYRIAN
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. HE IS ALSO NEWLY APPOINTED
CHARIMAN OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR RUNNING SYRIAN AIRLINES
IN THE AFTERMATH DISMISSAL OF THE AIRLINE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
IN SEPTEMBER.

2. RCAA DWOR WAS HERE FIRST WEEK NOVEMBER. HIS CIVAIR
CONTACTS MADE NO MENTION OF SYRIAN AIRLINES INTEREST IN
INAUGURATING A CARGO SERVICE. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF
SYRIAN AIRLINES DID SPEAK TO DWOR OF HIS HIP (AND HE
NOT REPEAT NOT FINAL DECISION MAKER) TO STANDARDISE ON
BOEING AIRCRAFT. AIRLINE EXAMINING PROSPETS FOR
PRUCHASING TWO ADDITIONAL BOEING 727S. THE DG SAYS HE
WOULD PREFER A SMALLER AIRCARFT THAN THE 727 BUT CON-
CLUDES THE 727 OFFERS THE BEST COMPROMISE IN VIEW
PROBLEMS OF INTEGRATING DIFFERENT MAKE AIRCRAFT INTO THE
EXISTING FLEET. THUS, THERE DOES APPEAR TO EXIST
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LEGITIMATE CIVILIAN NEED ON SHORT-HAUL DOMESTIC ROUTES,
BOTH FOR PASSENGERS AND CARGO, FOR AN AIRCRAFT OF L-100
TYPE.

3. DURING DISCUSSION WITH THE DEFENSE ATTACHE (COL.
ASHBY) IN EARLY JULY, MAJOR GENERAL NAJI JAMIL, SYRIAN
AIR FORCE CNMANDER, DISCLOSED A DESIRE TO PURCHASE FOUR

C-130S OR, AS AN ALTERNATIVE, THE L-100. JAMIL ALSO SAID THAT SARG WANTED TO NEGOTIATE WITH LOCKHEED DIRECTLY, NOT THROUGH THE USG. HE INDICATED SARG WOULD BE WILLING TO PAY CASH.

4. WE ARE AWARE THAT SALESMEN FOR FRENCH-GERMAN CONSORTIUM HAVE VISITED DAMASCUS IN RECENT MONTHS TRYING TO SELL NORATLAS, A SMALLER VERSION OF THE C-130. THE FRENCH ARE ALSO TRYING TO SELL THE C-160A TRANSALL WHICH IS COMPARABLE TO THE C-130.
MURPHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROCUREMENT, AIRCRAFT, AIR CARGO, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977DAMASC07142
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770426-0398
Format: TEL
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771149/aaaabpev.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 416fb117-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY, STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY, STADIS
Reference: 77 STATE 273762
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 554147
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOCKHEED L-100S FOR SYRIA
TAGS: MILI, EAIR, SY, US, LOCKHEED
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/416fb117-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009